

FVC Leadership

Governor Martin O'Malley

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Maryland Attorney General

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Howard County

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Maryland

Michael Cohen
Executive Director, Maryland Network Against
Domestic Violence

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Secretary of Human Resources

Clifton Files
Domestic Violence Specialist
Administrative Office of the Courts
Representative of The Maryland Judiciary

Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick
Superintendent of Education

continued

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Interim Executive Director, Governor's Office for
Children

Kristen Mahoney
Executive Director, Governor's Office of Crime
Control & Prevention

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Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Scott Patterson
Office of State's Attorney, Talbot County

Blanca Picazo
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Executive Director, CASA

Colonel Terrence B. Sheridan
Superintendent, Maryland State Police

Senator Bryan Simonaire
Maryland General Assembly

Delegate Donna Stifler
Maryland General Assembly

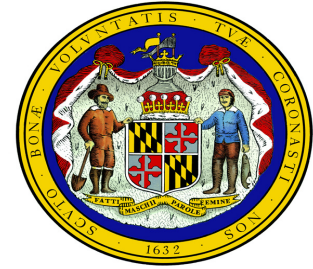
Delegate Kriselda Valderrama
Maryland General Assembly

Jeanne Yeager
Executive Director, Mid Shore Council on Family
Violence



300 E. Joppa Road
Suite 1105
Baltimore, Maryland 21286

Phone: 410-821-2828
Fax: 410-321-3482



**Family violence
can affect anyone.**

**In Maryland
we are doing
something about it.**

*The mission of the Governor's
Family Violence Council is to
provide the Governor with
timely and accurate
information on family violence
with recommendations that
will reduce and eliminate
abusive behaviors.*

About the FVC...

In 2007, Governor Martin O'Malley appointed members to the Governor's Family Violence Council. Through the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, the Council advises the Governor and Lieutenant Governor on issues related to family violence, and proposes policy, legislative and regulatory reform to reduce family violence, protect victims, and hold perpetrators accountable. Members of the Council are experts, leaders and advocates in the field of family violence.

The Council studies and evaluates State policies and programs to determine their impact on the prevention of family violence and assess the relationship between family violence, mental health, juvenile delinquency, alcohol and substance abuse.

Much of the Council's work is accomplished in three sub-committees: Legislation, Public Awareness and Data. The Council is also responsible for the certification of Abuser Intervention Programs throughout the state.

The Council consists of no more than twenty-five members. Several members are appointed by the Governor; others represent the Legislature, the Judiciary; and others serve ex officio.

During the 2009 Legislative Session the FVC Supported:

HB 296/SB 267: Family Law - Protective Orders - Surrender of Firearms: Making it mandatory, rather than discretionary, for a final protective order to order the respondent to surrender to law enforcement authorities any firearm in the respondent's possession, and to refrain from possession of any firearm, for the duration of the order. *Passed both the House and the Senate.*

HB 302/SB 268: Family Law – Temporary Protective Orders – Surrender of Firearms: Authorizing a judge in entering a temporary protective order to order the respondent to surrender to law enforcement authorities any firearms in the respondent's possession for the duration of the order; requiring a law enforcement officer to provide specified information to the respondent and to provide for safe storage of the firearm; making it a misdemeanor to fail to comply with an order to surrender firearms; etc. *Passed both the House and the Senate.*

HB 98/SB 601: Domestic Violence - Temporary Protective Orders - Extension: Increasing the period of time, from 30 days to 6 months, for which a judge is authorized to extend a temporary protective order to effectuate service of the order where necessary to provide protection or for other good cause. *Passed both the House and the Senate.*

HB 901/SB 736: Domestic Violence - Cruelty Toward a Pet or Service Animal: Authorizing a District Court Commissioner, in an interim protective order, or a judge, in a temporary or final protective order, to order a respondent to remain away from, refrain from cruelty or aggravated cruelty toward, or give to a specified person a pet or service animal under specified circumstances; specifying penalties for failure to comply with relief ordered in a protective order; etc. *Passed Senate, Hearing Pending on House.*

On the Agenda for 2008 – 2009

- Dialogue with media about domestic violence issues
- Awareness activities around domestic violence issues
- Implementation of dashboard system for data sharing
- Legislative testimony and support
- Collaboration and support of Maryland domestic violence organizations.

The Council serves as a resource for the public and victims in combating family violence throughout Maryland.
